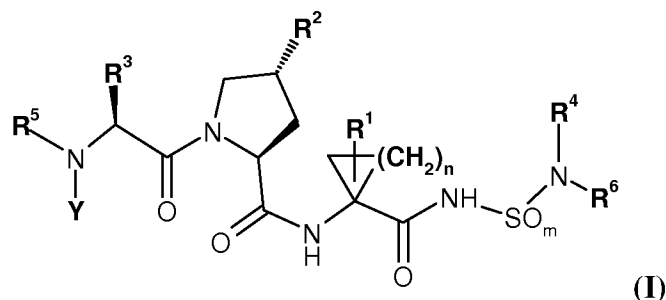


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

# LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I:



wherein

**n** is 1 or 2;

**m** is 1 or 2;

**R<sup>1</sup>** is ethyl or vinyl; H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkynyl, wherein each of said (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkynyl are optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms;

**R<sup>2</sup>** is selected from -CH<sub>2</sub>-**R<sup>20</sup>**, -NH-**R<sup>20</sup>**, -O-**R<sup>20</sup>**, -S-**R<sup>20</sup>**, -SO-**R<sup>20</sup>**, -SO<sub>2</sub>-**R<sup>20</sup>**, -CH<sub>2</sub>O-**R<sup>20</sup>**, and -O-X-**R<sup>20</sup>**, wherein

**X** is (C<sub>2-3</sub>)alkenyl, (C<sub>2-3</sub>)alkynyl, or (C<sub>1-3</sub>)alkyl; and

**R<sup>20</sup>** is (C<sub>6</sub> or C<sub>10</sub>)aryl or **Het**, wherein said (C<sub>6</sub> or C<sub>10</sub>)aryl or **Het** is optionally substituted with **R<sup>200</sup>**; wherein

**R<sup>200</sup>** is one to four substituents each independently selected from H, halogen, cyano, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, oxo, thioxo, -OR<sup>201</sup>, -SR<sup>201</sup>, -SOR<sup>201</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>201</sup>, -N(R<sup>202</sup>)R<sup>201</sup>, and -CON(R<sup>202</sup>)R<sup>201</sup>; wherein each of said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and aryl and **Het** is optionally further substituted with **R<sup>2000</sup>**;

**R<sup>201</sup>** in each case is independently selected from H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, and

aryl, ~~CO-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and CO-O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~, wherein each of said alkyl and aaryl is optionally further substituted with **R**<sup>2000</sup>;

**R**<sup>202</sup> in each case is independently selected from H and (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

**R**<sup>2000</sup> in each case is one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, aaryl, **Het**, -OR<sup>2001</sup>, -SR<sup>2001</sup>, -SOR<sup>2001</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>2001</sup>, cyano, -N(R<sup>2002</sup>)(R<sup>2001</sup>), and **R**<sup>2003</sup>, wherein said aaryl and **Het** are optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents each independently selected from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

**R**<sup>2001</sup> in each case is independently selected from aaryl, aaryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, -C(O)-**R**<sup>2003</sup>, -C(O)O-R<sup>2003</sup>, -CON(R<sup>2002</sup>)(R<sup>2004</sup>) and **R**<sup>2004</sup>;

**R**<sup>2002</sup> in each case is independently selected from H and (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

**R**<sup>2003</sup> in each case is independently selected from (C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkyl, and (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl; ~~and (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, wherein said (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl and (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl are each optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from (C<sub>1-3</sub>)alkyl; and~~

~~**R**<sup>2004</sup> in each case is independently selected from H and **R**<sup>2003</sup>;~~

**R**<sup>3</sup> is (C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkyl, or (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl or ~~(C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-3</sub>)alkyl~~, each optionally substituted with one ~~or more substituents~~ substituent each independently selected from ~~(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, halogen, cyano, -OR<sup>30</sup>, -SR<sup>30</sup>, -C(=O)OR<sup>30</sup>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, aaryl, and aaryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~, wherein **R**<sup>30</sup> is H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, aaryl, or aaryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-;

**R**<sup>5</sup> is selected from ~~**B**, **B**-C(=O)-, **B**-O-C(=O)-, **B**-N(R<sup>51</sup>)-C(=O)-; **B**-N(R<sup>51</sup>)-C(=S)-, **B**-SO<sub>2</sub>- and **B**-N(R<sup>51</sup>)-SO<sub>2</sub>-~~; wherein **B** is selected from:

- (i) (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, halogen, -OC(=O)(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -O(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;
- (ii) (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, or (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl-, each optionally

substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, halogen, -COOH, -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, -O(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;

~~(iii) — aryl or aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, OH, NH<sub>2</sub>, NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;~~

~~(iv) — **Het** or **Het** (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl ;, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, OH, NH<sub>2</sub>, NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>; and~~

~~(v) — (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkynyl, each optionally substituted with 1 to 3 halogens; and wherein~~

**R**<sup>51</sup> is selected from H and (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

provided that B is not (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl unsubstituted when **R**<sup>5</sup> is **B-O-C(=O)-**;

**Y** is H ~~or (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~;

**R**<sup>4</sup> and **R**<sup>6</sup> are each independently selected from H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, and aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-; wherein said (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl- are each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, ~~CO-NH<sub>2</sub>, CO-NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, CO-N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>~~, -COOH, and -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl; or

**R**<sup>4</sup> and **R**<sup>6</sup> are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a heteropolycycle, each of said heterocycle and heteropolycycle optionally containing from one to three additional heteroatoms

each independently selected from N, S and O, and each of said heterocycle and heteropolycycle being optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -CO-NH<sub>2</sub>, -CO-NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -CO-N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -COOH, and -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

with the proviso that when:

**R<sup>5</sup>** is ~~B-O-C(=O)-~~ or ~~B-N(R<sup>51</sup>)-C(=O)-~~, wherein

~~————R<sup>51</sup> is H; and~~

~~————B is selected from (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, and (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl,~~

~~a) ——— wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl-alkyl are optionally mono-, di- or tri-substituted with (C<sub>1-3</sub>)alkyl; and~~

~~b) ——— wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl-alkyl are optionally mono- or di-substituted with substituents selected from hydroxy and O-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl; and~~

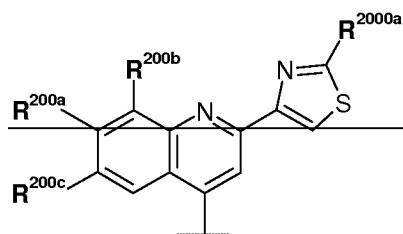
~~c) ——— wherein each of said alkyl groups may be mono-, di- or tri-substituted with halogen; and~~

~~d) ——— wherein in each of said cycloalkyl groups being 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered, one (for the 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-membered) or two (for the 5-, 6- or 7-membered) -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups not directly linked to each other may be replaced by O to provide a heterocycle, such that the O atom is linked to the -O-C(=O)- or -N(R<sup>51</sup>)-C(=O)- group via at least two carbon atoms; and~~

**R<sup>2</sup>** is O-R<sup>20</sup>;

then

**R<sup>20</sup>** cannot be



wherein

$R^{200a}$  is H, halogen,  $(C_{1-4})$ alkyl, ~~OH, O  $(C_{1-4})$ alkyl,  $NH_2$ ,  $NH(C_{1-4})$ alkyl or  $N((C_{1-4})alkyl)_2$ ;~~

$R^{200b}$ ,  $R^{200e}$  are each independently halogen, cyano,  $(C_{1-4})$ alkyl, ~~O  $(C_{1-4})$ alkyl,  $S(C_{1-4})$ alkyl,  $SO(C_{1-4})$ alkyl, or  $SO_2(C_{1-4})$ alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl groups is optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms; and either  $R^{200b}$  or  $R^{200e}$  (but not both at the same time) may also be H; or~~

$R^{200a}$  and  $R^{200b}$  or

$R^{200a}$  and  $R^{200e}$  may be covalently bonded to form, together with the two C atoms to which they are linked, a 5- or 6- membered carbocyclic ring wherein one or two  $CH_2$  groups not being directly linked to each other may be replaced each independently by O or  $NR^a$  wherein  $R^a$  is H or  $(C_{1-4})$ alkyl, and wherein said carbo- or heterocyclic ring is optionally mono- or di-substituted with  $(C_{1-4})$ alkyl; and

$R^{200a}$  is  $R^{2003}$ ,  $N(R^{2002})COR^{2003}$ ,  $N(R^{2002})COOR^{2003}$ ,  $N(R^{2002})(R^{2004})$ , or  $N(R^{2002})CON(R^{2002})(R^{2004})$ , wherein

$R^{2002}$  is H or methyl;

$R^{2003}$  is  $(C_{1-8})$ alkyl,  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl or  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl  $(C_{1-4})$ alkyl, wherein said  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl and  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl  $(C_{1-4})$ alkyl are optionally mono-, di-, or tri-substituted with  $(C_{1-3})$ alkyl; and

$R^{2004}$  is H or  $R^{2003}$ ;

wherein **Het** is defined as a 3- to 7-membered heterocycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N and S, which may be saturated, unsaturated or aromatic, and which is optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a 4- to 14-membered heteropolycycle having wherever possible 1 to 5 heteroatoms, each independently selected from O, N and S, said heteropolycycle being saturated, unsaturated or aromatic;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein

**n** is 1 ~~or~~ 2;

**m** is 1 ~~or~~ 2;

**R<sup>1</sup>** is ethyl or vinyl; ~~H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkynyl, wherein each of said (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkynyl are optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms;~~

**R<sup>2</sup>** is selected from -CH<sub>2</sub>-**R<sup>20</sup>**, -NH-**R<sup>20</sup>**, -O-**R<sup>20</sup>**, ~~S-**R<sup>20</sup>**, SO-**R<sup>20</sup>**, SO<sub>2</sub>-**R<sup>20</sup>**, CH<sub>2</sub>O-R<sup>20</sup>~~, and -O-X-**R<sup>20</sup>**, wherein

**X** is ~~(C<sub>2-3</sub>)alkenyl~~, (C<sub>2-3</sub>)alkynyl, or (C<sub>1-3</sub>)alkyl; and

**R<sup>20</sup>** is (C<sub>6</sub> or C<sub>10</sub>)aryl or **Het**, wherein said (C<sub>6</sub> or C<sub>10</sub>)aryl or **Het** is optionally substituted with **R<sup>200</sup>**; wherein

**R<sup>200</sup>** is one to four substituents each independently selected from H, halogen, cyano, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, oxo, thioxo, -OR<sup>201</sup>, -SR<sup>201</sup>, -SOR<sup>201</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>201</sup>, -N(R<sup>202</sup>)R<sup>201</sup>, and -CON(R<sup>202</sup>)R<sup>201</sup>; wherein each of said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and aryl ~~and Het~~ is optionally further substituted with **R<sup>2000</sup>**;

**R<sup>201</sup>** in each case is independently selected from H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, and aryl, ~~CO-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and CO-O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~, wherein each of said alkyl and aryl is optionally further substituted with **R<sup>2000</sup>**;

**R<sup>202</sup>** in each case is independently selected from H and (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

**R<sup>2000</sup>** in each case is one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, aryl, **Het**, -OR<sup>2001</sup>, ~~SR<sup>2001</sup>, SOR<sup>2001</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>2001</sup>~~, cyano, -N(R<sup>2002</sup>)(R<sup>2001</sup>), and **R<sup>2003</sup>**, wherein said aryl and **Het** are optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents each independently selected from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

**R<sup>2001</sup>** in each case is independently selected from aryl, aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, -C(O)-

$R^{2003}$ ,  $-C(O)O-R^{2003}$ ,  $-CON(R^{2002})(R^{2004})$  and  $R^{2004}$ ;

$R^{2002}$  in each case is independently selected from H and  $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl;

$R^{2003}$  in each case is independently selected from  $(C_{1-8})$ alkyl; and  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl;  
and  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl- $(C_{1-4})$ alkyl, ~~wherein said  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl and~~  
 ~~$(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl- $(C_{1-4})$ alkyl are each optionally substituted with one to~~  
~~three substituents each independently selected from  $(C_{1-3})$ alkyl; and~~

$R^{2004}$  ~~in each case is independently selected from H and  $R^{2003}$ ;~~

$R^3$  is  $(C_{1-8})$ alkyl,  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl ~~or  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl- $(C_{1-3})$ alkyl, each optionally~~  
~~substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from~~  
 ~~$(C_{1-6})$ alkyl,  $(C_{2-6})$ alkenyl, halogen, cyano,  $OR^{30}$ ,  $SR^{30}$ ,  $-C(=O)OR^{30}$ ,  $-C(=O)NH_2$ ,~~  
 ~~$-C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})$ alkyl,  $-C(=O)N((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$ ,  $NH_2$ ,  $NH(C_{1-6})$ alkyl,~~  
 ~~$-N((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$ , aryl, and aryl $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl-, wherein  $R^{30}$  is H,  $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl, aryl, or~~  
~~aryl $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl;~~

$R^5$  is selected from **B**, **B**- $C(=O)-$ , **B**- $O-C(=O)-$ , **B**- $N(R^{51})-C(=O)-$ ; ~~**B**- $N(R^{51})-C(=S)-$ ,~~  
~~**B**- $SO_2$  and **B**- $N(R^{51})-SO_2$ ;~~ wherein **B** is selected from:

- (i)  $(C_{1-10})$ alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each  
selected independently from  $-COOH$ ,  $-COO(C_{1-6})$ alkyl,  $-OH$ , halogen,  
 $-OC(=O)(C_{1-6})$ alkyl,  $-O(C_{1-6})$ alkyl,  $-NH_2$ ,  $-NH(C_{1-6})$ alkyl,  $-N((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$ ,  
 $-C(=O)NH_2$ ,  $-C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})$ alkyl and  $-C(=O)N((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$ ;
- (ii)  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl, or  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl- $(C_{1-4})$ alkyl-, each optionally  
substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently  
from  $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl, halogen,  $-COOH$ ,  $-COO(C_{1-6})$ alkyl,  $-OH$ ,  $-O(C_{1-6})$ alkyl,  
 $-NH_2$ ,  $-NH(C_{1-6})$ alkyl,  $-N((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$ ,  $-C(=O)NH_2$ ,  $-C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})$ alkyl  
and  $-C(=O)N((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$ ;
- ~~(iii) aryl or aryl $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl, each optionally substituted with one or more~~  
~~substituents each selected independently from  $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl,  $-OH$ ,  $-NH_2$ ,~~  
 ~~$-NH(C_{1-6})$ alkyl,  $-N((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$ ,  $-C(=O)NH_2$ ,  $-C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})$ alkyl and~~  
 ~~$-C(=O)N((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$ ;~~
- ~~(iv) **Het** or **Het**  $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl, each optionally substituted with one or more~~

~~substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, OH, NH<sub>2</sub>,  
-NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and  
C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>; and~~

~~(v) —(C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkynyl, each optionally substituted with 1 to 3  
halogens; and wherein~~

~~R<sup>51</sup> is selected from H and (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;~~

~~provided that B is not (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl unsubstituted when R<sup>5</sup> is B-O-C(=O)-;~~

~~Y is H or (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;~~

~~R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are each independently selected from H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl,  
(C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, and aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-;  
wherein said (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl,  
(C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl- are each optionally  
substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from  
halogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl,  
-N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -CO-NH<sub>2</sub>, -CO-NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -CO-N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, and -COOH,  
and -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl; or~~

~~R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to  
7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle optionally fused to  
at least one other cycle to form a heteropolycycle, each of said heterocycle and  
heteropolycycle optionally containing from one to three additional heteroatoms  
each independently selected from N, S and O, and each of said heterocycle and  
heteropolycycle being optionally substituted with one or more substituents each  
independently selected from halogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl,  
-NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -CO-NH<sub>2</sub>, -CO-NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl,  
-CO-N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -COOH, and -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;~~

~~with the proviso that when:~~

~~R<sup>5</sup> is B-O-C(=O)- or B-N(R<sup>51</sup>)-C(=O)-, wherein~~

~~——R<sup>51</sup> is H; and~~

~~——B is selected from (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, and (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl,~~

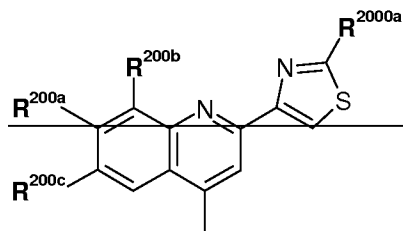


- a) ~~wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl alkyl are optionally mono-, di- or tri-substituted with (C<sub>1-3</sub>)alkyl; and~~
- b) ~~wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl alkyl are optionally mono- or di-substituted with substituents selected from hydroxy and O-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl; and~~
- c) ~~wherein each of said alkyl groups may be mono-, di- or tri-substituted with halogen; and~~
- d) ~~wherein in each of said cycloalkyl groups being 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered, one (for the 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-membered) or two (for the 5-, 6- or 7-membered) -CH<sub>2</sub>-groups not directly linked to each other may be replaced by -O- to provide a heterocycle, such that the -O-atom is linked to the -O-C(=O)- or -N(R<sup>51</sup>)-C(=O)- group via at least two carbon atoms; and~~

~~R<sup>2</sup> is O-R<sup>20</sup>;~~

then

~~R<sup>20</sup> cannot be~~



wherein

~~R<sup>200a</sup> is H, halogen, (C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -OH, -O-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl or -N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;~~

~~R<sup>200b</sup>, R<sup>200c</sup> are each independently halogen, cyano, (C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -O-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -S-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -SO-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, or -SO<sub>2</sub>-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl groups is optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms; and either R<sup>200b</sup> or R<sup>200c</sup> (but not both at the same time) may also be H; or~~

~~R<sup>200a</sup> and R<sup>200b</sup> or~~

~~R<sup>200a</sup> and R<sup>200c</sup> may be covalently bonded to form, together with the two C atoms~~

to which they are linked, a 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring wherein one or two  $\text{CH}_2$  groups not being directly linked to each other may be replaced each independently by O or  $\text{NR}^a$  wherein  $\text{R}^a$  is H or  $(\text{C}_{1-4})$ alkyl, and wherein said carbo- or heterocyclic ring is optionally mono- or di-substituted with  $(\text{C}_{1-4})$ alkyl; and

$\text{R}^{2000a}$  is  $\text{R}^{2003}$ ,  $\text{N}(\text{R}^{2002})\text{COR}^{2003}$ ,  $\text{N}(\text{R}^{2002})\text{COOR}^{2003}$ ,  $\text{N}(\text{R}^{2002})(\text{R}^{2004})$ , or  $\text{N}(\text{R}^{2002})\text{CON}(\text{R}^{2002})(\text{R}^{2004})$ , wherein

$\text{R}^{2002}$  is H or methyl;

$\text{R}^{2003}$  is  $(\text{C}_{1-8})$ alkyl,  $(\text{C}_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl or  $(\text{C}_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl  $(\text{C}_{1-4})$ alkyl, wherein said  $(\text{C}_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl and  $(\text{C}_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl  $(\text{C}_{1-4})$ alkyl are optionally mono-, di-, or tri-substituted with  $(\text{C}_{1-3})$ alkyl; and

$\text{R}^{2004}$  is H or  $\text{R}^{2003}$ ;

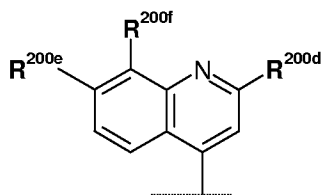
wherein **Het** is defined as a 3- to 7-membered heterocycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N and S, which may be saturated, unsaturated or aromatic, and which is optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a 4- to 14-membered heteropolycycle having wherever possible 1 to 5 heteroatoms, each independently selected from O, N and S, said heteropolycycle being saturated, unsaturated or aromatic;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

3. **(Currently amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein  $\text{R}^5$  is selected from  $\text{B-C(=O)-}$ ,  $\text{B-O-C(=O)-}$ , and  $\text{B-N(R}^{51})\text{-C(=O)-}$ ; wherein **B** and  $\text{R}^{51}$  are defined as in claim 1, provided that B is not  $(\text{C}_{1-10})$ alkyl unsubstituted when  $\text{R}^5$  is  $\text{B-O-C(=O)-}$ .

4. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 3 wherein  $R^{51}$  is H and **B** is selected from:
- (i)  $(C_{1-7})$ alkyl optionally substituted with one or two or three substituents each independently selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, hydroxy, methoxy and ethoxy; or optionally substituted with  $-COOCH_3$ ;
  - (ii)  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl, or  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl-methyl-, each optionally substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from methyl, ethyl, hydroxy, methoxy and ethoxy;
  - ~~(iii) benzyl; and~~
  - ~~(iv) **Het**, wherein **Het** comprises a 3-, 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-membered heterocycle having one to four heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N, and S, which may be saturated or unsaturated or aromatic;~~
- provided that **B** is not  $(C_{1-7})$ alkyl unsubstituted when  $R^5$  is  $B-O-C(=O)-$ .
5. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein **Y** is H.
6. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein  $R^3$  is tert-butyl  ~~$(C_{1-8})$ alkyl or  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl, the  $(C_{1-8})$ alkyl being optionally substituted with hydroxy,  $(C_{1-6})$ alkoxy or  $-C(=O)OR^{30}$ , wherein  $R^{30}$  is  $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl or aryl $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl.~~
7. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein  $R^2$  is selected from  $-O-R^{20}$ ,  ~~$-S-R^{20}$~~ , and  $-O-X-R^{20}$ , wherein  $R^{20}$  and **X** are defined as in claim 1.
8. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 7 wherein  $R^2$  is  $-O-X-R^{20}$ , wherein **X** is  $(C_3)$ alkynyl and  $R^{20}$  is  $(C_6$  or  $C_{10})$ aryl.

9. (Original) The compound according to claim 7 wherein  $R^2$  is  $-O-R^{20}$ , wherein  $R^{20}$  is



wherein

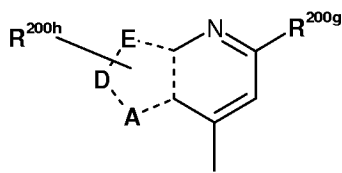
$R^{200d}$  is  $-OR^{201}$ , wherein  $R^{201}$  is  $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl;

$R^{200e}$  is H or  $-OR^{201}$ , wherein  $R^{201}$  is  $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl; and

$R^{200f}$  is  $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl, halogen,  $-SR^{201}$ ,  $-SO_2R^{201}$ , or  $-OR^{201}$ , wherein  $R^{201}$  is  $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl optionally further substituted with  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl or phenyl.

10. (Original) The compound according to claim 9 wherein  $R^{200d}$  is  $-OR^{201}$  wherein  $R^{201}$  is ethyl.

11. (Original) The compound according to claim 7 wherein  $R^2$  is  $-O-R^{20}$ , wherein  $R^{20}$  is



wherein

one of **A**, **D**, and **E** represents a S atom and the other two of **A**, **D**, and **E** represent C atoms;

---- represents a single bond between a C atom and an S atom, and represents a single bond or a double bond between two C atoms; provided that each C atom is bonded by one double bond;

$R^{200g}$  is H or  $-OR^{201}$ , wherein  $R^{201}$  is  $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl or  $(C_{2-6})$ alkenyl; and

$R^{200h}$  is one or two substituents each independently selected from H, cyano,  $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl and  $-SO_2-(C_{1-6})$ alkyl; wherein each  $R^{200h}$  is bonded to a C atom which would otherwise bear a hydrogen atom.

12. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein **n** is 1.
13. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein **R<sup>1</sup>** is ~~(C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkyl~~ vinyl.
14. **(Canceled)**
15. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein:
- (i) **R<sup>4</sup>** and **R<sup>6</sup>** are each independently selected from H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-; wherein said (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl- are each optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, and -COOH, ~~and -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~; or
  - (ii) **R<sup>4</sup>** and **R<sup>6</sup>** are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle, said heterocycle optionally containing from one to three additional heteroatoms each independently selected from N, S and O, and said 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle being optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -COOH, and -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl.
16. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein:
- n** is 1 ~~or 2~~;
  - m** is 1 ~~or 2~~;
  - R<sup>1</sup>** is ethyl or vinyl ~~H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkynyl, wherein said (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkynyl are optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms;~~

**R<sup>2</sup>** is selected from  $\text{-CH}_2\text{-R}^{20}$ ,  $\text{-NH-R}^{20}$ ,  $\text{-O-R}^{20}$ ,  $\text{-S-R}^{20}$ ,  $\text{-SO-R}^{20}$ ,  $\text{-SO}_2\text{-R}^{20}$ ,  $\text{-CH}_2\text{O-R}^{20}$ , and  $\text{-O-X-R}^{20}$ , wherein

**X** is (C<sub>2-3</sub>)alkenyl, (C<sub>2-3</sub>)alkynyl, or (C<sub>1-3</sub>)alkyl; and

**R<sup>20</sup>** is (C<sub>6</sub> or C<sub>10</sub>)aryl or **Het**, wherein said (C<sub>6</sub> or C<sub>10</sub>)aryl or **Het** is optionally mono-, di-, tri- or tetra-substituted with **R<sup>200</sup>**, wherein each **R<sup>200</sup>** is independently selected from H, halogen, cyano, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, oxo, thioxo,  $\text{-OR}^{201}$ ,  $\text{-SR}^{201}$ ,  $\text{-SOR}^{201}$ ,  $\text{-SO}_2\text{R}^{201}$ ,  $\text{-N(R}^{202})\text{R}^{201}$ , and  $\text{-CON(R}^{202})\text{R}^{201}$ ; wherein each of said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and aryl and **Het** is optionally further substituted with **R<sup>2000</sup>**;

**R<sup>201</sup>** in each case is independently selected from H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl; and aryl,  $\text{-CO-(C}_{1-6}\text{)alkyl}$  and  $\text{-CO-O-(C}_{1-6}\text{)alkyl}$ , wherein each of said alkyl and aryl is optionally further substituted with **R<sup>2000</sup>**;

**R<sup>202</sup>** is H or (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

**R<sup>2000</sup>** is one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, aryl, **Het**,  $\text{-OR}^{2001}$ ,  $\text{-SR}^{2001}$ ,  $\text{-SOR}^{2001}$ ,  $\text{-SO}_2\text{R}^{2001}$ , cyano,  $\text{-N(R}^{2002})(\text{R}^{2001})$ , and **R<sup>2003</sup>**, wherein said aryl and **Het** are optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents selected from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and  $\text{-O-(C}_{1-6}\text{)alkyl}$ ;

**R<sup>2001</sup>** in each case is independently selected from aryl, aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-,  $\text{-C(O)-R}^{2003}$ ,  $\text{-C(O)O-R}^{2003}$ ,  $\text{-CON(R}^{2002})(\text{R}^{2004})$  and **R<sup>2004</sup>**;

**R<sup>2002</sup>** is H or (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

**R<sup>2003</sup>** is (C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkyl; and (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl; or ~~(C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl~~, wherein said ~~(C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl~~ and ~~(C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl~~ are optionally mono-, di-, or tri-substituted with (C<sub>1-3</sub>)alkyl; and

**R<sup>2004</sup>** is H or **R<sup>2003</sup>**;

**R<sup>3</sup>** is (C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkyl, ~~(C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl or (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-3</sub>)alkyl~~, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, halogen, cyano,  $\text{-OR}^{30}$ ,  $\text{-SR}^{30}$ ,  $\text{-C(=O)OR}^{30}$ ,  $\text{-C(=O)NH}_2$ ,  $\text{-C(=O)NH(C}_{1-6}\text{)alkyl}$ ,  $\text{-C(=O)N((C}_{1-6}\text{)alkyl)}_2$ ,  $\text{-NH}_2$ ,  $\text{-NH(C}_{1-6}\text{)alkyl}$ ,

~~N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, aryl, and aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, wherein **R**<sup>30</sup> is H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, aryl, or aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;~~

**R**<sup>5</sup> is selected from **B**, ~~**B-C(=O)-**~~ **B-O-C(=O)-**, and **B-N(R<sup>51</sup>)-C(=O)-**;

~~**B-N(R<sup>51</sup>)-C(=S)-**, **B-SO<sub>2</sub>-** and **B-N(R<sup>51</sup>)-SO<sub>2</sub>-**~~; wherein **B** is selected from:

- (i) (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, ~~-COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~, -OH, halogen, ~~-OC(=O)(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~, ~~O(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, ~~-C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>~~, ~~-C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~ and ~~-C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>~~;
- (ii) (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, ~~or (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl (C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl~~, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, halogen, -COOH, -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, -O(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, ~~-C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>~~, ~~-C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~ and ~~-C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>~~;
- (iii) ~~aryl or aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, ~~OH~~, ~~NH<sub>2</sub>~~, ~~NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~, ~~N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>~~, ~~-C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>~~, ~~-C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~ and ~~-C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>~~;
- (iv) ~~Het or Het (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, ~~OH~~, ~~NH<sub>2</sub>~~, ~~NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~, ~~N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>~~, ~~-C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>~~, ~~-C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~ and ~~-C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>~~; and
- (v) ~~(C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkynyl, each optionally substituted with 1 to 3 halogens; and wherein~~

**R**<sup>51</sup> is selected from H and (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

provided that **B** is not (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl unsubstituted, when **R**<sup>5</sup> is **B-O-C(=O)-**;

**Y** is H ~~or (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~;

**R**<sup>4</sup> and **R**<sup>6</sup> are each independently selected from H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl, ~~Het~~, and aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-; wherein said (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-

are optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, ~~-CO-NH<sub>2</sub>, -CO-NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -CO-N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>~~, -COOH, and -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl; or

**R<sup>4</sup>** and **R<sup>6</sup>** are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a heteropolycycle, said heterocycle and heteropolycycle optionally containing from one to three further heteroatoms independently selected from N, S and O, and said 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle being optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -CO-NH<sub>2</sub>, -CO-NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -CO-N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -COOH, and -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

with the proviso that when:

**R<sup>5</sup>** is ~~**B**-O-C(=O)-~~ or ~~**B**-N(**R<sup>51</sup>**)-C(=O)-~~, wherein

—— **R<sup>51</sup>** is H; and

—— **B** is selected from (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, and (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl;

a) —— wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl-alkyl are optionally mono-, di- or tri-substituted with (C<sub>1-3</sub>)alkyl; and

b) —— wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl-alkyl are optionally mono- or di-substituted with substituents selected from hydroxy and O-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl; and

c) —— wherein each of said alkyl groups may be mono-, di- or tri-substituted with halogen; and

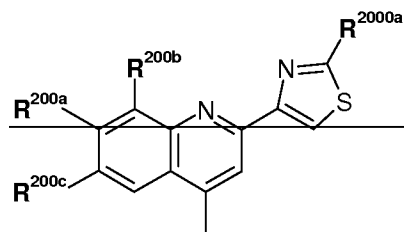
d) —— wherein in each of said cycloalkyl groups being 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered, one (for the 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-membered) or two (for the 5-, 6- or 7-membered) -CH<sub>2</sub>-groups not directly linked to each other may be replaced by O to provide a heterocycle, such that the O atom is linked to the -O-C(=O)- or -N(**R<sup>51</sup>**)-C(=O)- group via at least two carbon atoms; and

**R<sup>2</sup>** is O-**R<sup>20</sup>**;



then

$R^{20}$  cannot be



wherein

$R^{200a}$  is H, halogen,  $(C_{1-4})$ alkyl,  $\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{O}(C_{1-4})$ alkyl,  $\text{NH}_2$ ,  $\text{NH}(C_{1-4})$ alkyl or  $\text{N}((C_{1-4})\text{alkyl})_2$ ;

$R^{200b}$ ,  $R^{200c}$  are each independently halogen, cyano,  $(C_{1-4})$ alkyl,  $\text{O}(C_{1-4})$ alkyl,  $\text{S}(C_{1-4})$ alkyl,  $\text{SO}(C_{1-4})$ alkyl, or  $\text{SO}_2(C_{1-4})$ alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl groups is optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms; and either  $R^{200b}$  or  $R^{200c}$  (but not both at the same time) may also be H; or

$R^{200a}$  and  $R^{200b}$  or

$R^{200a}$  and  $R^{200c}$  may be covalently bonded to form, together with the two C atoms to which they are linked, a 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring wherein one or two  $\text{CH}_2$  groups not being directly linked to each other may be replaced each independently by  $\text{O}$  or  $\text{NR}^a$  wherein  $R^a$  is H or  $(C_{1-4})$ alkyl, and wherein said carbo- or heterocyclic ring is optionally mono- or di-substituted with  $(C_{1-4})$ alkyl; and

$R^{2000a}$  is  $R^{2003}$ ,  $\text{N}(R^{2002})\text{COR}^{2003}$ ,  $\text{N}(R^{2002})\text{COOR}^{2003}$ ,  $\text{N}(R^{2002})(R^{2004})$ , or  $\text{N}(R^{2002})\text{CON}(R^{2002})(R^{2004})$ , wherein

$R^{2002}$  is H or methyl;

$R^{2003}$  is  $(C_{1-8})$ alkyl,  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl or  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl  $(C_{1-4})$ alkyl, wherein said  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl and  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl  $(C_{1-4})$ alkyl are optionally mono-, di-, or tri-substituted with  $(C_{1-3})$ alkyl; and

$R^{2004}$  is H or  $R^{2003}$ ;

wherein **Het** is defined as a 3- to 7-membered heterocycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N and S, which may be saturated, unsaturated or aromatic, and which is optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a 4- to 14-membered heteropolycycle having wherever possible 1 to 5 heteroatoms, each independently selected from O, N and S, said heteropolycycle being saturated, unsaturated or aromatic;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

**17. (Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein:

**R<sup>5</sup>** is selected from ~~**B-C(=O)-**~~ **B-O-C(=O)-**, and ~~**B-NH-C(=O)-**~~; wherein **B** is selected from:

- (i) (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, halogen, -OC(=O)(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -O(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, ~~C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>,~~  
~~C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;~~
- (ii) (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, or (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl-, ~~each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, halogen,~~  
~~-COOH, -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, -O(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl,~~  
~~-N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;~~
- (iii) ~~aryl or aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl,~~  
~~-N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;~~
- (iv) ~~**Het** or **Het** (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl,~~  
~~-N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;~~

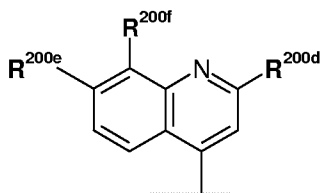
provided that **B** is not (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl unsubstituted, when **R<sup>5</sup>** is **B-O-C(=O)-**;

**Y** is H;

$R^3$  is tert-butyl (C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, each of which are optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl,  $OR^{30}$ , and  $C(=O)OR^{30}$ , wherein  $R^{30}$  is H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, or aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

$R^2$  is  $-O-X-R^{20}$ , wherein X is (C<sub>3</sub>)alkynyl and  $R^{20}$  is (C<sub>6</sub> or C<sub>10</sub>)aryl; or

$R^2$  is  $-O-R^{20}$  wherein  $R^{20}$  is



wherein

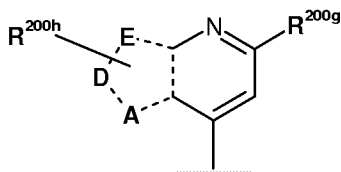
$R^{200d}$  is  $-OR^{201}$ , wherein  $R^{201}$  is (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

$R^{200e}$  is H or  $-OR^{201}$ , wherein  $R^{201}$  is (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl; and

$R^{200f}$  is (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, halogen,  $-SR^{201}$ ,  $-SO_2R^{201}$ , or  $-OR^{201}$ , wherein  $R^{201}$  is

(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl optionally further substituted with (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl or phenyl;

or  $R^{20}$  is



wherein

one of A, D, and E represents a S atom and the other two of A, D, and E represent C atoms;

---- represents a single bond between a C atom and an S atom, and represents a single bond or a double bond between two C atoms; provided that each C atom is bonded by one double bond;

$R^{200g}$  is H or  $-OR^{201}$ , wherein  $R^{201}$  is (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl; and

$R^{200h}$  is one or two substituents each independently selected from H, cyano, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and  $-SO_2-(C_{1-6})alkyl$ ; wherein each  $R^{200h}$  is bonded to a C atom which would otherwise bear a hydrogen atom;

**R<sup>1</sup>** is ethyl or vinyl ~~(C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkyl~~;

**n** is 1;

**m** is 2; and

**R<sup>4</sup>** and **R<sup>6</sup>** are each independently selected from H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-; wherein said (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl- are optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from halogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -COOH, and -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl; or

**R<sup>4</sup>** and **R<sup>6</sup>** are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle, said heterocycle optionally containing from one to three further heteroatoms each independently selected from N, S and O, and said 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle being optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -COOH, and -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

- 18. (Previously presented)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising an anti-hepatitis C virally effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium or auxiliary agent.
- 19. (Original)** The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 18 additionally comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one other antiviral agent.
- 20. (Withdrawn – Currently amended)** A method of treating ~~or preventing~~ a hepatitis C viral infection in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an

anti-hepatitis C virally effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutical composition comprising said compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium or auxiliary agent.

**21. – 22. (Canceled)**

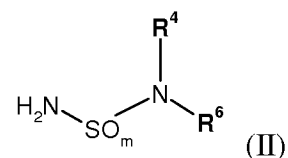
**23. (Withdrawn)** A method of inhibiting the replication of hepatitis C virus by exposing the virus to a hepatitis C viral NS3 protease inhibiting amount of the compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

**24. (Canceled)**

**25. (Previously Presented)** An article of manufacture comprising a composition effective to treat an HCV infection or to inhibit the NS3 protease of HCV; and packaging material comprising a label which indicates that the composition can be used to treat infection by the hepatitis C virus; wherein the composition comprises a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium or auxiliary agent .

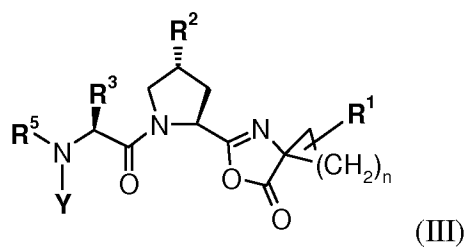
**26. (Previously Presented)** A process for the preparation of a compound according to claim 1, comprising:

a) reacting a compound of formula (II):



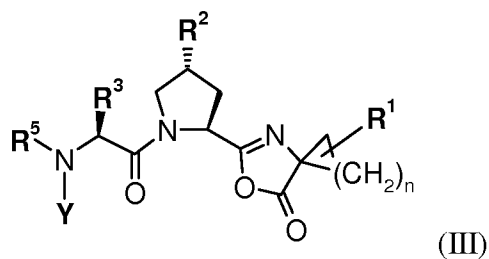
wherein  $\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{R}^6$  and  $m$  are defined as in claim 1, with a strong base so as to form the corresponding amide anion and

b) reacting an azalactone of formula (III):



wherein  $\mathbf{R}^1$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^2$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^3$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^5$ ,  $\mathbf{Y}$  and  $\mathbf{n}$  are defined as in claim 1, with the amide anion formed in step a).

27. **(Original)** An azalactone intermediate compound of formula (III):



wherein  $\mathbf{R}^1$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^2$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^3$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^5$ ,  $\mathbf{Y}$  and  $\mathbf{n}$  are defined as in claim 1.

28. **(Canceled)**